History 2112 – America Since 1890
Kennesaw State University
Spring Semester 2010
TTh 6:30 PM- 7:45 PM (CRN# 10635)
Social Science Bldg. Room 2034

Instructor: Dr. William C. Nicholson
Office: Social Science Bldg, # 4121
Office Hours: By appointment

Telephones: 770-423-6294 (History & Philosophy Department)
404-765-1516 (Woodward Academy)
E-mail: bill.nicholson@woodward.edu or wnicol5@kennesaw.edu

Textbooks:
George Brown Tindall and David E. Shi. America: A Narrative History.
Loewen, James W. Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your
Shi, David E. and Holly A. Mayer. For the Record. 3rd edition. Vol. 2. W. W. Norton,
2007.

EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR READING AND ABIDING BY THE
TERMS OF THIS SYLLABUS. PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MY
ATTENDANCE POLICY TO AVOID SIGNIFICANT GRADE REDUCTIONS AT
THE END OF THE SEMESTER.

Course Objectives: The main objective of this course is to present a broad overview of
American history from the late 19th century to the present. This goal will be
accomplished by utilizing a textbook (which gives a general narrative account of
American history), a supplemental reader (which gives alternative viewpoints of
familiar themes and events in American history), and a book of primary sources (which
gives students access to first-hand accounts of key late 19th and 20th century issues and
events). Traditional political, military, and diplomatic history will provide a general
framework within which a number of social, cultural, and urban themes will also be
explored. Due to the time period covered, lectures by necessity will be rather general in
scope. Lectures will be enhanced and supplemented, however, by outside readings, class
discussions and video excerpts which will provide more in-depth coverage and analysis
of specific historical themes and events. It is crucial, therefore, that the assigned reading
will be completed before class.

Tests and Project: There will be FOUR, non-cumulative tests given during the semester,
the lowest of which will be dropped. These tests will consist of 80 objective-type
questions (multiple choice, true-false, etc.). In addition to the major tests, each student
will complete a Primary Documents Project which will consist of EITHER a 7-8
minute oral presentation accompanied by a one-page summary electronic handout for the
class that summarizes your document and addresses the “Review Questions” asked at the end of each document OR a 4-5 page, typed (double-spaced) paper that does the same. (See Web CT for more detailed instructions).

Class Participation: Students are strongly encouraged to participate actively in class. Student participation in class discussions makes for a far more interesting and lively class and enhances one’s grasp of the material and its nuances. BUT PLEASE DO NOT TALK WHILE OTHERS ARE TALKING. This is just common courtesy. Class participation and attendance will be taken into consideration at the end of the course in determining borderline grades.

ALSO, PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF ME AND YOUR PEERS BY:

1. TURNING OFF ALL CELLPHONES/PAGERS AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.
2. TURNING OFF ALL LAPTOPS DURING VIDEOS SO AS NOT TO DISTRACT THOSE AROUND YOU.

FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE REQUESTS MAY RESULT IN YOUR EXPULSION FROM CLASS.

Attendance: Attendance is regulated by the University’s policy found in the University catalog. Students should recognize that classroom interaction, both among peers and between instructor and student, provides the best forum for learning and intellectual development in general. Therefore, regular class attendance is required and will be used in determining final grades in borderline cases. To be counted “present” for a class, students must be in class for more than half the class period. If you leave before the halfway point, you will be marked “absent.” Each student will be allowed FOUR absences during the semester without penalty. For every absence over four, one point will be deducted from a student’s final grade. There are NO “excused” absences (no doctor’s notes or work excuses accepted). For students who achieve perfect attendance, however, TWO points will be added to their final average.

Tardiness: Please be considerate of the instructor and other students by arriving to class on time and waiting until class is over before gathering up books and materials to leave. If you know you will be late or will have to leave early, please notify the instructor in advance if possible. Thank you.

Grades: Student grades will be determined as follows:
3 Tests-----------------------------75% (25% each)
1 Primary Documents Project------25%
[Final grades will be adjusted for attendance accordingly]

Withdrawal from the Course: Withdrawal before the midpoint of the semester (March 5th ) entitles the student to receive the grade of "W" if performance up to that point has been satisfactory. A student doing failing work will receive the grade "WF" as
well as students who withdraw after March 5th. Any exception must be approved by the Dean of Students.

**Academic Dishonesty:** This course adheres to the policy on cheating and plagiarism found in the University catalog. Simply put, DON'T DO EITHER. This instructor has ZERO TOLERANCE for both.

**Make-Ups:** There are NO make-ups. If you are unable to attend class for any reason on the scheduled day for a test, that test will be used as your “drop.” NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY SO DO NOT ASK.

**Extra Credit Work:** This instructor does NOT offer extra credit opportunities except in extreme cases with unusual extenuating circumstances … so do not ask!

**Note:** This syllabus is merely a guide to this course and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

**HISTORY 2112**

**American History Since 1890**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| 1-7    | Intro./Course Overview                       | -----
<p>|        | <em>America in the Late 19th Century: An Overview</em> |                               |
| 1-12   | <em>The New South</em>                              | <em>Tindall Ch. 19</em> (pp. 560-572) |
| 1-14   | B. T. Washington, “The Atlanta Compromise”   | <em>Shi/Mayer</em>, pp. 36-39         |
|        | John Hope, “A Critique of the Atlanta Compromise” | <em>Shi/Mayer</em>, pp. 39-40       |
|        | <em>The New West</em>                               |                               |
|        | “Red Eyes”                                   | <em>Tindall Ch.19 (con’t)</em> (pp. 572-587) |
|        |                                              | <em>Loewen Intro./Ch. 4</em>         |
| 1-19   | <em>Big Business</em>                               | <em>Tindall Ch. 20</em> (pp. 590-604) |
|        | Carnegie, “Wealth”                           | <em>Shi/Mayer</em>, pp. 58-60        |
|        | Hubert, “The Business of a Factory”          | <em>Shi/Mayer</em>, pp. 68-70        |
| 1-21   | <em>Organized Labor</em>                            | <em>Tindall Ch.20 (con’t)</em> (pp. 604-615) |</p>
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<td>Tindall Ch. 21 (pp. 618-629)</td>
<td>Loewen Ch. 7, Shi/Mayer, pp. 65-66, Shi/Mayer, pp. 71-72</td>
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<td>Popular Culture/Education &amp; Literature</td>
<td>Tindall Ch. 21 (con’t) (pp. 629-647)</td>
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<td>Plunkitt, “A Defense of Political Graft”</td>
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<td>Ingersoll, “Should the Chinese be Excluded?”</td>
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Wilson, “Declaration of War” (Shi/Mayer, pp. 70-72
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AND Clancy, “The Immigration Act of 1924”

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12 Southerners, “I’ll Take My Stand” (Shi/Mayer, pp.228-30

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“The Truman Doctrine”  
Shi/Mayer, pp.301-04

MacArthur, “Address to Congress”  
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4-8  
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      (Last Day of Class)  Loewen, Chs. 8, 10
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Note: There will be no final exam